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Briefing Materials for the DCI on the Bush trip

The Vice President's trip mainly focused on US policy on INF. In addition, Bush discussed economic issues with several European officials. The "talking points" provided to you yesterday assessed public comment on the trip.

Embassy reports on the Vice President's conversations with selected West European leaders are highlighted below:

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- Administration would fulfill the FRG's Alliance responsibilities, including--if necessary--deployment some INF missiles. He acknowledged, however, that the SPD's primary purpose was to make deployments superfluous.
- Colombo told the Vice President it is important to stress that the negotiations were moving forward and that the zero option was not a "take it or leave it proposition."
- Belgian Foreign Minister Tindemans said that proposing an interim solution now would undercut the US negotiating position at Geneva.
- Dutch Prime Minister Lubbers said the zero option represented the best outcome at Geneva, but he too favored reaching interim agreements with zero and the ultimate goal.

the Vice President discussed economic matters with officials at the EC in Brussels and with other officials in Rome and Paris. In those discussions:

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- EC Commission President Thorn brought up the recent US sale of subsidized wheat flour to Egypt--a traditional EC market--and said EC retaliation was possible.
- In Brussels, Paris, and Rome, officials emphasized that the European public would look to the US to combat the recession and stressed the importance of lower interest rates and monetary stability.

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